LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-4, 10-15, and 23 without prejudice; please amend claims 1, 5-7, 16-18, and 24; and please add new claims 25 and 26, as set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for purifying a lipopeptide antibiotic, said method comprising the steps of:

contacting an aqueous solution ~~of the lipopeptide antibiotic and a divalent metal ion with an organic solvent, thereby extracting the lipopeptide antibiotic into the organic solvent~~ comprising a lipopeptide antibiotic, a divalent cation, and a pH above the isoelectric point of the lipopeptide antibiotic with an organic solvent, thereby extracting the lipopeptide antibiotic into the organic solvent, wherein the lipopeptide antibiotic is a derivative of zaomycin, crystallomycin, amphomycin, aspartocin, glumamycin, daptomycin, antibiotic A1437, antibiotic A-21978C, antibiotic A-54145 or tsushimycin; and

contacting the organic solvent extract of the lipopeptide antibiotic with acid.

2. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 in which the lipopeptide antibiotic is ~~laspartomycin~~ a derivative of amphomycin.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 in which the lipopeptide antibiotic is a derivative of aspartocin.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 in which the lipopeptide antibiotic is a derivative of antibiotic A-21978C or a derivative of daptomycin.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 in which the pH of the aqueous solution of the lipopeptide antibiotic is adjusted to a basic pH.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 in which the molar concentration of divalent cation relative to carboxylate groups in the lipopeptide antibiotic is between about 4:1 and about 10:1.

10. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of Claims 8 or 15~~ claim 8 in which the adjusted pH is in the range of about pH 8.0 to about pH 9.0.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of Claims 8 or 15~~ claim 9 in which the divalent cation is selected from the group consisting of Ca2+, Mg2+ and Zn2+.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
extracting the lipopeptide antibiotic into a third aqueous solution;
extracting the lipopeptide antibiotic into a second organic solvent;
extracting the lipopeptide antibiotic into a fourth aqueous solution; and
concentrating the fourth aqueous solution to provide a salt of the lipopeptide antibiotic.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the organic extract of the lipopeptide antibiotic is extracted into the third aqueous solution by washing with an aqueous base solution.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the third aqueous solution of the lipopeptide antibiotic is extracted into the second organic solvent by acidifying

the third aqueous solution of the lipopeptide antibiotic and contacting with the second organic solvent.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the salt of lipopeptide antibiotic is acidified to provide a free acid of lipopeptide antibiotic.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21 in which the organic solvent and the second organic solvent is 1-butanol.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of isolating an acidic lipopeptide antibiotic, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting an aqueous composition comprising ~~the~~ a lipopeptide antibiotic and a divalent metal cation with an organic solvent, wherein said aqueous composition has a pH above the isoelectric point of the lipopeptide antibiotic and the lipopeptide antibiotic is a derivative of zaomycin, crystallomycin, amphomycin, aspartocin, glumamycin, daptomycin, antibiotic A1437, antibiotic A-21978C, antibiotic A-54145 or tsushimycin;

(b) acidifying the organic phase obtained from step (a); and

(c) contacting the acidified organic phase of step (b) with an aqueous solvent.

25. (New) The method of Claim 24 in which steps (a) through (c) are repeated.

26. (New) The method of Claim 1 in which the lipopeptide antibiotic is extracted from the aqueous solution with an aqueous base solution.